

## Technology

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# Conspiracies grow over LAPD's call for #Dorner blackout

- by: **By Claire Porter, technology editor**
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- **14 comments** ([/technology/lapd-calls-for-dorner-twitter-blackout/comments-e6frfro0-1226577048844](#))



The LAPD today asked media outlets to stop tweeting about the Christopher Dorner manhunt. That hasn't stopped readers from tweeting, however.

*Source:* The Courier-Mail

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Police scanners have been switched off and journalists turned away from the cabin.

**AS the LAPD surrounded the burning cabin containing former US Marine Reserve and alleged cop killer Christopher Dorner, police called for a worldwide Twitter blackout.**

Conspiracy theories are mounting that the police in the San Bernardino County created their own version of events, trying at all costs to block journalists' from accessing the scene to confirm how the events unfolded.

The LAPD issued a request to media outlets earlier this morning to "please stop tweeting" about the unfolding events.

Many major news outlets complied with the police's unusual request, suspecting Dorner was following the coverage and watching the police operation.

However the LAPD did not respond to requests to explain. **It has, however, deleted the Tweet** (<https://twitter.com/sbcountyda>).

The LAPD also turned off its police scanners to prevent journalists or other interested parties from listening in, **The New York Times reported** ([http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/13/us/officials-report-shootout-with-fugitive-ex-officer.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/13/us/officials-report-shootout-with-fugitive-ex-officer.html?_r=0)). The scanner is **back online** (<http://www.bigbears scanner.com/>), as of the time of publishing.

**LAPD Tweet**

The police asked for the media to stop tweeting about the events, before deleting the tweet. Picture: Twitter  
Source: Supplied

Media may

**SB District Attorney**  
@sbcountyda

The sheriff has asked all members of the press to stop tweeting immediately. It is hindering officer safety. #Dorner

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310 RETWEETS 21 FAVORITES

have  
held fire  
but that  
hasn't

4:58 PM - 12 Feb 13

stopped conspiracy theories mounting about why the LAPD didn't put out the fire that started when they fired tear gas into the cabin where Dorner had barricaded himself.

Earlier today the US Marshal's Service district chief Kurt Ellingson told CNN that "a suspect" tried to get out of the back door of the cabin, but he was pushed back inside. Twitter users jumped to many conclusions including allegations that police left Dorner to burn alive inside the cabin.

"Cops started the fire and now lying about it," tweeted user **@Anon4Justice** (<https://twitter.com/Anon4justice/status/301494694930702336>). "Heard them on scanner one hour ago 'Going forward with the burn'. #dorner".

Another user **@GeorgieBC** (<https://twitter.com/GeorgieBC/status/301506766825467906>) wrote: "So US 'authorities' have apparently burnt someone to death in a cabin and let it burn through the basement so no body is left. #Dorner".

**She continued:** (<https://twitter.com/GeorgieBC/status/301505176441847808>) "So police scanners were cut and media was told to stop filming then they lit the cabin on fire? Anyone ask for surrender? #Dorner."

Another user **@nicsha** (<https://twitter.com/nicsha/status/301501860056035328>) tweeted: "I don't sympathise with murders but burning a man alive in a cabin who is 'suspected to be a guy who might have killed' is wrong #dorner".

Hacking group Anonymous also weighed in, calling the police's requests for silence "shady".

"Note to media: If cops ask you to back away, it's b/c they're about to do something shady. It has nothing to do with your safety. #dorner," **@Occupythemob** (<https://twitter.com/Occupythemob/status/301500723022143488>) tweeted.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Cindy Bachman said that no one was allowed to go near the fire, including the fire department.

Twitter user, **@DanjoLabeef** (<https://twitter.com/DanjoLabeef/status/301514708962402304>) tweeted: "'Hey, so this guy went into a cabin. We're not sure it's #Dorner, and even if it is, we're not sure he's guilty. Let's light it on fire!'".

"#Dorner chased back into cabin when SO plan was to set fire??", tweeted another user **@eurekasue49** (<https://twitter.com/eurekasue49>).

Twitter user **@alpamin** (<https://twitter.com/alpamin/status/301515605167714304>) wrote: "Why don't they put that fire out? They obviously don't want him alive!!! #dorner."

Not everyone is convinced. Some people agree with the police version of events.

"#Dorner shot himself, I feel it, that's what the one gunshot heard during the fire must have been," tweeted **@CalebMetcalf** (<https://twitter.com/CalebMetcalf>).

The LAPD may have asked for silence from the media for now, but they won't get much cooperation from the public on Twitter.

